

# FFE12 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

JANUARY 2016

The four-year McGovern-Dole Food for Education (FFE) program supported by USDA has a total estimated budget of \$11.6 million USD and started in September 2012. The program is slated to end in August 2016. The current FFE program has supported over 1,000 kindergarten and schools located in nearly all rayons across the country with the aims to:

- 1) Improve children's nutrition and health; and
- 2) Improve educational learning environments.

A few selected achievements to date include:

## »Improving children's health and nutrition:

Since 2013, FFE's support has improved and/or started a school meals program for nearly 60,000 children in 512 kindergartens and primary schools across the country. These meals programs serve very diverse meals, averaging 5 out of 8 food groups per day at primary schools, which serve one meal per day, and 6.5 out of 8 food groups per day at kindergartens, which serve two meals and one snack each day. Before the FFE program, the 70 pilot primary schools supported through FFE were not serving hot meals to students, now neighboring schools are following the examples of these pilot schools and starting their own hot meals programs with community support.

The effects of this support can be seen long after FFE support ends, the 122 kindergartens who received FFE support in the past but were graduated from support before this program began in 2013 continue to serve diverse meals (6.4 food groups per day) and have successfully raised additional funds to increase their average feeding budgets to 45 KGS per child per day from parents and local government sources to continue serving diverse meals without support.

## »Improving skills and knowledge at the household, school, and governmental level with an aim to improve children's nutritional status:

FFE's training program is building the capacity of school and local-government officials to be able to sustain and manage a nutrition school feeding program with a focus on nutrition, food safety, and feeding program management. The program has trained over 3,900 school and government officials. Mercy Corps' evidence shows this training has a big impact on the diversity of meals served in kindergartens. Schools that participated in the training for cooks served one additional food group, a substantial increase in diversity over the schools that had not participated.

FFE conducted over 500 trainings with over 12,000 parents trained on the key elements of improved nutrition and meal planning at the household level. During 2016, FFE will train an additional 1,400 parents. After the training, Mercy Corps followed up with a sample of households between six and twelve months after the training. In households where there was a child under two years old there was a 24.3% increase in the number of households meeting the World Health Organization minimum meal diversity standard and 97.8 percent of these households met the standard at end-line. Household consumption of all food groups except for legumes and nuts increased after the trainings.

All FFE trainings are a minimum of 2 days or 16 hours.

## »Improving learning environments

The FFE program has supported 961 school-furniture and infrastructure projects through a community led process. These projects, located in all rayons of the country, have received more than \$1.7 million USD from USG's support and over \$1.9 million USD in local contribution, from government and community sources, to improve learning environments for children across the country.

